

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 091326Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8676

INFO AMCONGEN MUNICH

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USNATO 0891

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR RO GW

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN MEDIA REACTION TO BRANDT RESIGNATION

1. ROMANIAN MEDIA HAVE GIVEN FAIRLY EXTENSIVE, STRAIGHTFORWARD COVERAGE TO BRANDT'S RESIGNATION. LONG SCINTEIA ARTICLE MAY 9 BY V. ALEXANDRESCU PRAISES BRANDT'S ROLE IN DEVELOPING FRG-GOR RELATIONS AND IN NORMALIZING EAST-WEST RELATIONS IN EUROPE. ARTICLE ALSO EXPRESSES STRONG HOPE THAT CHANGE IN FRG LEADERSHIP WILL NOT RESULT IN CHANGES IN POLICY TOWARDS ROMANIA AND EE IN GENERAL.

2. ALTHOUGH INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS MAY 7 ON RADIO AND TV IGNORED SPYING ASPECTS, PRESS OF MAY 8 AND MAY 9 QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM BRANDT'S RESIGNATION
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LETTER WITH ITS MENTION OF "GUILLAUME ESPIONAGE

AFFAIR". IN EVEN LESS SUBTLE, INDIRECT SLAP AT EAST GERMANS, ALEXANDRESCU ARTICLE STATES THAT "THE ROMANIAN PEOPLE PROFOUNDLY REGRET THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO (BRANDT'S) RESIGNATION".

3. COMMENT: GOR IS CLEARLY SORRY TO SEE BRANDT LEAVE THE CHANCELLORSHIP AND MAY BE AT LEAST SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE ABOUT WHAT POLICIES THE NEW GERMAN LEADERSHIP, SOMETHING OF AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY HERE, WILL FOLLOW. HOWEVER, ROMANIAN FOREIGN POLICY IS KEYED GENERALLY TO INSTITUTIONS RATHER THAN PERSONALITIES AND THE GOR IS DOUBTLESS PREPARED TO ADAPT TO CHANGES WHICH IT CALCULATES PROBABLY WILL NOT HAVE MAJOR EFFECT ON FRG-GOR RELATIONS. WE FIND SCINTEIA ARTICLE INTERESTING FOR IMPLIED CRITICISM OF EAST GERMAN BUNGLING AND RESULTING INTERRUPTION OF DETENTE PROCESS, PROBABLY INDICATIVE OF LESS THAN IDEAL POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN THE TWO "FRATERNAL" COUNTRIES.
BARNES

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